

**Sociology 140  
Spring 2017**

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## **Political Sociology**

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an understanding of the relationship between society and politics. Our approach to this broad phenomenon will be through a study of the interrelationship between economic development, social relations, and politics. In the process, we will examine how class, race, ethnicity, and gender interact with political culture, ideology and the state. This examination will involve both a review of the theories that have emerged to explain the role of the state in society, as well as a more concrete look at contemporary politics. One of the key aspects of politics is engagement in political behavior. We will analyze the diverse forms it takes, ranging from voting to participation in social movements. Our analysis of these forms of political behavior and the larger question of state/society relations will be comparative in nature, exploring the variations that exist between different regions of the world and between distinct social systems.

### Course Requirements

Written work will consist of one take-home, essay mid-term exam (worth 30% of the final grade), a research paper (worth 35% of the final grade), and a final exam (worth 20% of the final grade). The research paper will entail the study of a concrete political phenomenon, which draws on some of the theoretical analysis presented in the course. A brief (half page) synopsis of the paper will be required in order to assist students in selecting a researchable topic. See the due dates for each of these assignments in the course outline. Participation in discussion sections will make up the remaining 15% of the final grade.

Students will be expected to do all of the required readings listed below, and attend classes and discussion sections. The written assignments will test your comprehension of the readings and lectures. Attached to this syllabus please find and read several pages selected from the university's guide on Academic Dishonesty. Academic Honesty will be taken very seriously in this course.

### Course Materials

A reader of required articles has been put together for the course and is available from University Copy (2425 Channing Way - 549-2335). Articles included in the reader are designated with an \* in the Course Outline. In addition, one required book is on sale at ASUC Bookstore. All of the required readings from the reader will be available through B-Course, while the required book will be On Reserve in Moffitt Undergraduate Library.

The required book is: Gitlin, Todd, The Whole World is Watching.  
Berkeley: University of California Press (2003).

## Course Outline

### **Week 1: What is Politics?** (17-19 January)

#### Required Readings

\* Flacks, Richard, Making History: The Radical Tradition in American Life. Chapter 2 (pp. 25-67). New York: Columbia University Press (1988).

#### Recommended Readings

- Bellah, Robert, et.al., Habits of the Heart. Chapter 8. Berkeley: University of California Press (1985).
- Gaventa, John, Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley. Chicago: University of Illinois Press (1980).

### **Week 2: Economic Development and Social Cleavage** (20-31 January)

#### Required Readings

\* Giddens, Anthony, and David Held, Classes, Power, and Conflict: Classical and Contemporary Debates. Selections from Chapter 1, 2, and 3 (Pages 19-28; 35-39; 47-57; 60-62; 65; 68-69). Berkeley: University of California Press (1982).

\* Gerth, H.H., and C. Wright Mills, From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology. Chapter VIII (Pages 77-85; 196-198; 204-209; 214-216; 221-224; 228-232). New York: Oxford University Press (1978).

\* Glenn, Evelyn Nakano, "The Social Construction and Institutionalization of Gender and Race." In Revising Gender, edited by Myra Marx Ferree et al., pp. 3-43. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications (1999).

#### Recommended

- Newman, Katherine, Declining Fortunes: The Withering of the American Dream. Chapter 2 (pp. 28-55). New York: Basic Books (1993).
- Garnsey, Elizabeth, "Women's Work and Theories of Class and Stratification." In Classes, Power, and Conflict (Giddens and Held), pp. 425-445.
- Humphries, Jane, "Class Struggle and the Persistence of the Working-Class Family." In Classes, Power, and Conflict (Giddens and Held), pp. 470-490.
- Engels, Friedrich, "On the Origin of the State." In The Marx-Engels Reader edited by Robert C. Tucker, pp. 651-659. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. (1972).

### **Week 3: Pluralist Explanations of Politics** (1-7 February)

#### Required Readings

\* Dahl, Robert A., Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 1-84). New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press (1961).

#### Recommended Readings

- Rose, Arnold, The Power Structure: Political Process in American Society. Chapter 1, 2, and 3 (pp. 1-127). New York: Oxford University Press (1967).
- Lipset, Seymour Martin, Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics. Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor Books (1963).

#### **Week 4: Power Elite Explanations of Politics** (8-14 February)

##### Required Readings

\* Domhoff, G. William, Who Rules America? Challenges to Corporate and Class Domination. Boston: McGraw Hill (2009). Chapters 1, 3, 6, and 7 (pp. 1-23; 55-84; 147-172; 173-209). Boston: McGraw Hill (2009).

##### Recommended Readings

- Mills, C. Wright, The Power Elite. London: Oxford University Press (1956).  
- Domhoff, G. William, The Power Elite and the State: How Policy is Made in America. New York: Aldine de Gruyter (1990).

#### **Week 5: Marxist Theories of Politics** (15-21 February)

##### Required Readings

\* Block, Fred, "The Ruling Class does not Rule: Notes on the Marxist Theory of the State," Socialist Revolution 33, 7, 3 (May-June, 1977): 6-28.

\* Offe, Claus, and Volker Ronge, "Theses on the Theory of the State," in Classes, Power, and Conflict, edited by Giddens and Held, pp. 249-256.

##### Recommended Readings

- Anglade, Christian and Carlos Fortin, "The State and Capital Accumulation in Latin America: A Conceptual and Historical Introduction." In The State and Capital Accumulation in Latin America, edited by Anglade and Fortin, pp. 1-51. Vol. 1. Oxford University Press (1985).

- Gold, David A., Clarence Y. H. Lo, and Erik Olin Wright, "Recent Developments in Marxist Theories of the Capitalist State," Monthly Review (2 parts) 27, 5 (October 1975): 29-43; and 6 (November 1975): 36-51.

- O'Connor, James, The Fiscal Crisis of the State. New York: St. Martin's Press (1973).

**[PAPER SYNOPSIS DUE: 21 FEBRUARY]**

#### **Week 6: The State in the Global South** (22-28 February)

##### Required Readings

\* Webster, Andrew, Introduction to the Sociology of Development. Chapter 6 (pp. 129-148). Atlantic Highlands, N.J.: Humanities Press International (1990).

\* Koo, Hagen, "The Interplay of State, Social Class and World System in East Asian Development: The Cases of South Korea and Taiwan." In The Political Economy of the New Asian Industrialism, edited by Frederic Deyo, pp. 165-181. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (1987).

### Recommended Readings

- Collier, David, "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model." In The New Authoritarianism in Latin America, edited by David Collier, pp. 19-32. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- O'Donnell, Guillermo, "Tensions in the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian State and the Question of Democracy." In The New Authoritarianism in Latin America, edited by David Collier, pp. 285-318. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Amsden, Alice, "The State and Taiwan's Economic Development." In Bringing the State Back In, edited by Peter B. Evans, et.al., pp. 78-106. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1986).

**[HAND OUT MIDTERM: 28 February]  
[MIDTERM EXAM DUE: 7 March]**

### **Week 7: The Influence of Ideology and the Media on Politics (1-7 March)**

#### Required Readings

- \* Williams, Raymond, Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society. "Ideology" (pp. 153-157). New York: Oxford University Press (1976).
- Gitlin, Todd, The Whole World is Watching. Introduction, and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-31). Berkeley: University of California Press (2003).

#### Recommended Readings

- Edelman, Murray, Constructing the Political Spectacle. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press (1988).
- Molotch, Harvey, and Marilyn Lester, "News as Purposive Behavior: On the Strategic Use of Routine Events, Accidents, and Scandals," American Sociological Review 39 (Feb. 1974): 101-112.

### **Week 8: More on the Media (8-14 March)**

#### Required Readings

- Gitlin, Todd, The Whole World is Watching. Chapters 2 and 10 (pp. 32-77; & 249-282).

### **Week 9: Voting and Non-Voting (15-21 March)**

#### Required Readings

- \* Piven, Frances Fox, and Richard A. Cloward, Why Americans Still Don't Vote and Why Politicians Want it That Way. Chapters 1; 3; and 4 (pp. 1-19; 45-71; and 72-93). Boston: Beacon Press (2000).

### Recommended Readings

- Piven, Frances Fox, and Richard Cloward, Why Americans Still Don't Vote (Rest of book).
- Lipset, Seymour Martin, Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics. Chapter 6 (pp. 183-229). Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor Books (1963).
- Teixeira, Ruy A., Why Americans don't Vote: Turnout Decline in the United States, 1960-1984. Greenwich, Ct.: Greenwood Press (1987).

### **Weeks 10-11: Social Movements as a Form of Political Participation** (22 March-11 April)

#### Required Readings

- \* Piven, Frances Fox, and Richard Cloward, Poor People's Movements. Chapter 4 (pp. 181-263). New York: Vintage Books (1979).
- \* Gould-Wartofsky, Michael A., The Occupiers. Chapters 1-3; 8, and Conclusion (pp. 14-85; 189-228). New York: Oxford University Press (2015).

### Recommended Readings

- McAdam, Doug, Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press (1982).
- Echols, Alice, Daring to be Bad: Radical Feminism in America, 1967-1975. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press (1989).
- Castells, Manuel, Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age. Malden, MA: Polity Press (2012).

### **Week 12 Politics in Socialist States: Cuba** (12-18 April)

#### Required Readings

- \* Bengelsdorf, Carollee, The Problem of Democracy in Cuba: Between Vision & Reality. Chapters 4 and 5 (pp. 66-133). New York: Oxford University Press (1994).

### Recommended Readings

- Fagen, Richard R., The Transformation of Political Culture in Cuba. Stanford: Stanford University Press (1969).
- Eckstein, Susan Eva, Back from the Future: Cuba Under Castro. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (1994).
- Centeno, Miguel Angel, and Mauricio Font (Eds.), Toward a New Cuba? Legacies of a Revolution. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner (1997).

**[TURN IN RESEARCH PAPER IN CLASS ON 18 April]**

**Week 13 More on Socialist States (In Third World Countries) (19-25 April)**

Required Readings

\* Booth, John A., The End and the Beginning: The Nicaraguan Revolution. Chapters 9 and 10 (pp. 185-269). Boulder, Co.: Westview Press (1985).

Recommended Readings

- Fagen, Richard, et al., Transition and Development: Problems of Third World Socialism. New York: Monthly Review (1986).
- Harris, Richard L., Marxism, Socialism, and Democracy in Latin America. Boulder, CO: Westview (1992).
- Burbach, Roger, Michael Fox, and Federico Fuentes, Latin America's Turbulent Transactions: The Future of Twenty-first-century Socialism. London : Zed Books, 2013.

**Week 14 Conclusion (27 April)**

Required Readings

- \* Flacks, Richard, Making History: The Radical Tradition in American Life. Chapter 6 (pp. 237-266; 275-276). New York: Columbia University Press (1988).
- \*Wright, Erik Olin, "Real Utopias," Contexts 10, 2 (2011): 36-42.

**[HAND OUT FINAL EXAM: 27 April]**

**Week 15:**

**Week 16: [TURN IN FINAL EXAM: BY 3:30 PM, 8 May]**

## Academic Dishonesty - Definition

Academic dishonesty consists of any deliberate attempt to falsify, fabricate or otherwise tamper with data, information, records, or any other material that is relevant to the student's participation in any course, laboratory, or other academic exercise or function. Most, although not all, such attempts fall into one or more of the following three categories:

**Plagiarism:** Deliberately presenting work, words, ideas, theories, etc., derived in whole or in part from a source external to the student as though they are the student's own efforts. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to the following:

- Failing to use proper citations as acknowledgment of the true source of information included in a paper, written or oral examination, or any other academic exercise.
- Presenting any work completed in whole or in part by any individual or group other than the student, as though the work is the student's own, in any academic exercise.
- Buying, selling, bartering, or in any other fashion obtaining or distributing material to be used fraudulently as part of any academic exercise.

**Cheating:** Disseminating or receiving answers, data, or other information by any means other than those expressly permitted by the instructor as part of any academic exercise. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:

- Copying answers, data, or other information (or allowing others to do so) during an examination, quiz, laboratory experiment, or any other academic exercise in which the student is not expressly permitted to work jointly with others.
- Assuming another individual's identity or allowing another person to do so on one's own behalf for the purpose of fulfilling any academic requirement or in any way enhancing the student's grade or academic standing.
- Using any device, implement, or other form of study aid during an examination, quiz, laboratory experiment, or any other academic exercise without the faculty member's permission.

**Other Academic Misconduct:** Falsifying or fabricating data, records, or any information relevant to the student's participation in any course or academic exercise, or tampering with such information as collected or distributed by the faculty member. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to the following:

- Falsifying, or attempting to falsify, attendance records, graded exercises of any kind, or any information or document intended to excuse the student from participation in any academic exercise.
- Inventing, fabricating, or falsifying data as part of the completion of any academic exercise.
- Knowingly furnishing false information (or facilitating the furnishing of false information) to a faculty member. The foregoing list of offenses is not intended to be fully exhaustive of all potential instances of academic dishonesty. Faculty and administrators may identify cases of academic dishonesty not herein contemplated.

